

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 – 10:37 p.m. October 20, 2010

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer

Patti Essig

Lisa Houk

Karen O'Halloran

Rick Rigley

Beth Tegtmeier

Absent:

Leandra Sedlack

ROLL CALL ANDVISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Meg Pokorny, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, Joni Sherman, Bill Brade, John McAtee, Judith Stevens, John Reid, Jana Stelter, and Tanya Kim; Sharon Hartley, Gordon Hartley and Carol Casper, First Student; and residents Maida Ng, Al Gron, Dorothy Gron, Brian Klimes, Manoel Conde, Linda Thorell, Gina Nelson, Jolene Carlson and Dariusz Ciucias.

RECOGNITIONOF STAFF

Board Member Rick Rigley presented Sharon Hartley, First Student Bus Driver, with a certificate of appreciation for her 18 years of hard work and service for the students of Pleasantdale.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Nelson read a letter from a middle school parent who was not in attendance at the Board meeting. The letter expressed concern about difficulties a student was experiencing in the 8th grade above level math class. It was further stated in the letter that the student was struggling with the pace of the content and the availability of extra help.

Maida Ng has three students at Pleasantdale. One of the students is in the 8th grade above level math class. The parent reported that she met with the teacher. The parent indicated that extra help is available during rec time but not before or after school. It was expressed that rec time should be available to students to have fun with friends and that before school would be better for her student to receive math assistance. The parent questioned whether additional help for grade 8 upper level math students could be made available before or after school.

Board member Patti Essig expressed concerns about references to individual staff members and students during open forum given published protocols.

Al Gron has a student in grade 8 upper level math requesting additional assistance from the teacher outside of rec time.

Dariusz Ciucias has a third grade and sixth grader at Pleasantdale. Since the last Board meeting, he was able to become more informed of the standards-based pilot program. He received additional information and attended the elementary school presentation. The parent is now more in favor of the program and feels the system will be great once some concerns are addressed. He thanked everyone for all the help they have given him to better understand the new system and how it works. The parent also mentioned that his daughter attends the Pleasant Dale Park District's before and after school program housed at the elementary school. He expressed concern that students attending the park district's program do not get any food. He inquired if anything could be done to provide students in the before and after school program with food.

Gina Nelson sent a question to the Board last month and she received an answer from Dr. Fredisdorf. She asked that if she submitted it again could she receive an answer from the Board.

Board member Beth Tegtmeier arrived at 7:19 p.m.

ACTION NO. 13
Consent Agenda

Motion by O'Halloran, seconded by Rigley, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 22, 2010; closed session meeting minutes of September 22, 2010; payment of September payroll/October warrants; and Finance (section 4) Board Policies. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, O'Halloran, Rigley, Tegtmeier) absent – Sedlack.

REPORTS AND
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Technology Plan Status Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who introduced the members of the Three Year Technology Planning Committee that was comprised of parents, teachers and administrators. The committee has been working on the plan since winter of 2010. Technology Specialist John McAtee reviewed the accomplishments from 2008-10 Technology Plan and recommendations contained in the 2011-14 Technology Plan.

Highlights of the 2011-14 plan include:

- Creating grade level curriculum scales for technology
- Providing students with interactive personal devices and tools to enhance learning
- Increasing integration of technology into all areas of the curriculum
- Providing continued assistance to teachers in mastering the use of technology including interactive resources and tools
- Continuing to provide online information to the community and parents specifically

Board members Rick Rigley cautioned that providing students with personal interactive devices such as e-readers be well researched so that benefits are maximized and costs minimized. Subsequent to Board review and approval, the 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 plan will be advanced to the State Board of Education for review and approval.

Elementary and Middle School 2010-11 Improvement Plans

Heard from Principal Matt Vandercar who presented the elementary school improvement plan. Mr. Vandercar reviewed the current action math and reading lab programs. Action math is in its second full year. Action math was moved from before school to after school. There has been definite improvement in attendance and students are more motivated to participate. This is the fourth full year of reading lab. New materials were purchased this year for teachers to use for direct instruction to address target reading issues. Standards-based pilots are currently taking place in 3rd grade science and 4th grade social studies. Middle School Principal Meg Pokorny reviewed the goals of last year and corresponding results. Explore results went up from 18.0 to 18.8 for the class of 2010; there was an 8% increase in the number of students in all grade levels combined who had zero conduct offenses; communication to parents was increased; there are now standards-based pilot programs in grades 5-7, and there has been promethean training for staff. Goals for the 2010-11 school year include: ensuring appropriate challenge and support for all students, especially those at either end of the achievement spectrum; ensuring that each of our students can demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage or resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways; ensuring that ITBS, GATES and EXPLORE scores for each cohort continue to improve.

Board Vice President Mark Mirabile asked a parent who was videotaping the meeting to please edit and take the pictures of the students out of the publications if she posts on the internet.

Communication Committee Update

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the conditions of satisfaction for the communication committee. Communication procedures have been developed and will be included in the school directory and the Board brochure; emergency procedures have been tested; students will be working on a service project with Hines Hospital; Veterans have been contacted to attend our Veterans day programs; and the Board brochure has been updated. Parents have been provided opportunities to attend standards-based grading and reporting information meetings. The Core team will evaluate the implementation of communication action plans and will provide feedback to the Board in November.

Tax Levy

Heard from Business Manager Catherine Chang regarding the proposed 2010 tax levy. There will be a public hearing regarding the tax levy on December 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION NO. 14

Tax Levy

Motion by Rigley, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed 2010 tax levy and authorize publication of the public hearing date. Voice vote. Motion carried.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the November 2010 agenda include:

Strategic Planning Status Report from Core Team; Review of Progress toward Strategic Objectives Using Standardized Test Data; Five-year Financial Projections; Audit Report; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Approve Technology Plan; Approve Library Grant; and Approve Audit Report.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Nelson commented that the salary compensation report was not currently in compliance.

Dariusz Ciucias had two comments for the middle school. First, regarding the personal improvement guide, the family was unable to access the tutorials on Dr. Wick's website. Second, regarding after school activities, the parent requested extra math groups for students who do not want to be in math Olympics.

ACTION NO. 15

Closed Session

Motion by Essig, seconded by Tegtmeier, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 8:59 p.m. to discuss the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, O'Halloran, Rigley, Tegtmeier) absent - Sedlack.

Board President Leandra Sedlack arrived during closed session.

The Board came out of closed session at 10:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

App. ___ President Leandra M. Sedlack Secretary Gina A. Houk